INTERIM

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

FOR

TEN YEAR FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS

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Manitoba Natural Resources
Forestry Branch

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PREAMBLE

A Ten Year Forest Management Plan is required from Forest Management Licence (FML) holders by Manitoba Natural Resources under the terms of licence agreements. To provide direction to planners in the preparation of forest management plans for forest operations in Manitoba, these Interim Submission Guidelines for Ten Year Forest Management Plans were developed by regional foresters and Forestry Branch staff, with industry input. This document outlines the process, responsibilities and level of detail necessary to ensure the production of a complete and comprehensive forest management plan.

The Interim Submission Guidelines for Ten Year Forest Management Plans is a practical guide to address field level resource planning challenges. The benefits of ten year plans are recognized by both Manitoba Natural Resources and Manitoba Environment. As such, in addition to the requirement for a ten year plan under *The Forest Act*, *The Manitoba Environment Act* considers forest management plans, including ten year plans as Class 2 developments in the licensing process.

Ten year forest management plans are submitted to the Forestry Branch of Manitoba Natural Resources by the proponent. The ten year plan is reviewed departmentally by appropriate branches and regional integrated resource management teams (IRMTs). Manitoba Natural Resources generally provides input to Manitoba Environment for their assessment. Through this process the Province of Manitoba develops a response to any plan submitted.

Within Natural Resources, approval of a Ten Year Forest Management Plan is the responsibility of the Director of Forestry. However, as the department's representative, the Director will only approve a plan when the concerns of Natural Resources have been met. As Manitoba Natural Resources and Manitoba Environment cooperate in their assessments, approval by the Director of Forestry typically means that Manitoba Environment licensing requirements have also been met.

Ten Year Plans are supported by Annual Operating Plans (AOPs) at the regional level. AOPs are developed within the context of the Ten Year Forest Management Plan to further detail the proposed activities within the current year, with projections for the next two years. AOPs are approved yearly by the local IRMT and the Forestry Branch.

In recent years Manitoba Natural Resources has undertaken new initiatives to promote a more integrated and sustainable approach for managing the province's natural resources, including the establishment of provincial forest policies though extensive public consultation (*Sustainable Development - Applying Manitoba's Forest Policies*). In February, 1996, *Manitoba's Forest Plan...Towards Ecosystems Based Management* was released, marking significant advancement in the Province's quest for sustainable forest development. These guidelines for ten year management plans are identified as interim; they will be subject to change as the Manitoba Forest Plan is implemented over the next few years.

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR TEN YEAR FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS

The following outlines, by section, the required information for a Ten Year Forest Management Plan.

I. INTRODUCTION

A) Include a reference to Manitoba Forest Management Licence (FML) agreement requirements for a Ten Year Forest Management Plan.

B) Include a reference to *The Manitoba Environment Act* and the forest management activities to be licensed under this act. Provide an explanation of the review and approval process at all levels of planning, including a process of public consultation.

C) Provide an overview of the company or proponent (the Province may act as proponent for forest operations occurring outside an FML area). The overview should include the Company's resources (staffing, infrastructure, technical capability), nature of product(s) and market(s).

D) Provide an **overview** of the activities being proposed including:

i) Projected annual wood requirements.

ii) Projected annual harvest (volumes over projected ten year operating areas).

iii) Anticipated forest management activities including joint and cost shared programs in site preparation, planting, tending, forest protection and health, harvest methods, research and resource surveys.

iv) Infrastructure program including roads, wood storage areas, processing and transportation strategy.

E) Demonstrate the social and economic benefits of the proposed ten year activities. (including an economic analysis of the major activities).

F) Provide an environmental statement that references relevant forest policies such as National Forest Strategy, Forest Accord, Applying Manitoba's Forest Policies, Manitoba's Forest Plan...Towards Ecosystems Based Management. Include environmental/resource issues requiring special attention , such as biodiversity and ecosystem management, water quality, harvesting practices, public input.

G) List, in an appendix, all applicable acts, regulations, guidelines used or referenced in the development of the ten year plan and in planning day to day operations.

II. FOREST ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION

A) Provide an explanation of how forest lands are organized for administrative purposes (forest sections, forest management units (FMU), Provincial forests, FML boundaries, operating areas, eco-regions and eco-zones).

B) Present a map showing the areas encompassed by the ten year development plan. FML holders are to indicate developments in the context of their licence area.

C) Provide an overview of how the FML or forest section is administered, particularly proponent responsibilities through negotiated agreement, provincial statute or both. Topics of discussion should include timber administration requirements, annual reporting requirements (including content of annual reports), planning responsibilities and activity approval processes.

III. RESOURCE INFORMATION FOR FOREST SECTION OR FML AREA

The information requirements in this section are to be provided for the entire FML area or forest section. The intent of this information is to put past and proposed developments in perspective in the context of overall impact on the land and its resources. Provide an overview description using maps, tables, graphs, lists or narrative of the following:

A) General Physical Description.

i) Climate.
ii) Soils and geology.
iii) Topography and landform.
iv) Vegetation.
v) Physical infrastructure (roads, railroads, hydro lines, etc.)

B) Timber Resources.

i) Productive and non-productive forest area (maps and tables).
ii) Volumes by species and cutting class or age class.
iii) Stand-type and maturity class or age class distribution.
iv) Fire and insect and disease history.

C) Terrestrial and Aquatic Flora and Fauna

i) Aquatic floral and faunal indicator/important species, general distribution and abundance.
ii) Terrestrial floral and faunal indicator/important species, general distribution and abundance.
iii) Vulnerable, threatened or endangered species/habitats both aquatic and terrestrial.
iv) Capability of forest habitats to support important/indicator aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna.

D) Water Resources at an overview level depicting:

i) Lakes and streams of commercial and recreational importance.
ii) Designated waterways (i.e. canoe routes, hydro electric projects).
iii) Location of aquifers, streams, rivers, drains, lakes, reservoirs, drainage areas and watersheds. Note: maps to be at the same level of definition as Provincial Water Resources Maps.

E) Recreational/Cultural/Historic Values or Resources

i) Important resources and values within the ten year plan area.

F) Special places having natural, cultural and heritage characteristics of significance.

IV. OBJECTIVES FOR PLANNING PERIOD

This section will provide guidance, direction and focus to the forest management plan by identifying the proponents' main management objectives for the ten year planning period, as well as key concerns that will be addressed through operational planning (annual operating plans).

Within this section, under each objective, the proponent should detail what strategy will be employed and specific actions to be undertaken during the planning period to meet the objective.

A) The proponent will provide a discussion outlining integrated resource management goals and objectives (forestry, wildlife, fisheries, parks, water resources, etc.) for the ten year planning period (goals and objectives require clarification very early in the consultation process). Discussion should include:

i) Links and references to long term development/management objectives and the goals and objectives found in the document "Applying Manitoba's Forest Policies", Manitoba's Forest Plan...Towards Ecosystems Based Management, and any proponent initiated forest management planning and operational practises or procedures which will be followed.

ii) Identification and discussion of key issues that will influence planning or operations during the planning period. This discussion should be general with site specific detail, where appropriate, that clearly defines operating/mitigation strategies. Key issues may include but are not limited to:

- condition and supply of timber.
- forest protection, health and productivity.
- stand tending and forest management activities.
- road access/management strategy for wildlife and other resource values.
- impacts on aquatic resources.
- integration of other forest resource values.
- forest regulation.
- biodiversity and ecosystem protection.

B) Present an overview of all forest management planning and operating practises or procedures employed by the proponent in the course of day to day operations.

V. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A) In accordance with the goals and objectives of Manitoba's Forest Plan and Manitoba's Forest Strategy for Sustainable Development, present scientific knowledge and discussion as supporting evidence that the planned forest harvesting and regeneration practices will support harvesting at the proposed rate, in perpetuity without compromising factors such as:

i) Climatic influences on/of the forest.
ii) Biodiversity and ecosystem integrity.
iii) Water and site quality.
iv) Sustained yield of timber resources

B) Provide a detailed discussion on short and long term forest regulation strategies addressing:

i) Annual allowable cuts (calculation, administration and utilization).
ii) Age class structure and distribution.
iii) Forest growth and yield.

C) Provide a detailed outline of stand level management strategies that are to be employed over the planning period. The outline should address:

i) Forest covertype maintenance.
ii) The role of the forest ecosystem classification system in operations planning.

VI. ALTERNATE LAND USE ACTIVITIES

Use maps, tables or graphic representation where appropriate and briefly describe all pertinent land use activity, development limitations and resource issues which may impact, either directly or indirectly, the activities and level of harvest proposed for the planning period.

Land use activities may include but are not limited to:

A) Agricultural areas (leased and agriculturally coded areas) and planned expansion.

B) Mineral and gravel reserves.

C) Hydro developments including reservoirs and water conservation projects.

D) Wildlife Management Areas.

E) Provincial and federal parks.

F) Ecological Reserves and protected areas.

G) Current traplines, cabins and fish camps, outfitters.

H) Recreational areas/trails, private/municipal lands.

I) Indian Reserve Lands.

J) Heritage resources and historically/culturally important areas.

K) Current Crown Land Classification Codes.

In addition, describe (using maps, tables or graphic representation) all pertinent **proposed** land use activities, other than forestry, within the license area or forest section, particularly the area influenced by the ten year forest management plan. Such activities may include hydro electric development, parks and recreational areas, endangered spaces, mining, agricultural and highway development.

VII. PAST FOREST DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

A) Provide discussion accompanied by maps and tables to describe all past harvesting and renewal activities, from an agreed upon base year, for the entire forest section or FML area. Information should be detailed enough to provide a clear picture of activities to date. This information will act as a point of reference for proposed development identifying:

i) Existing roads and stream crossings (class and status), indicating ownership.

ii) Harvested areas, depicting year and type of harvest.

iii) Renewal and pest management activities such as: areas scarified for natural regeneration, areas planted, stand tending, areas receiving silvicultural treatment (such as sanitation harvesting). The information should be provided in conjunction with depletion activities. Natural regeneration survey statistics and pest survey statistics should be provided to put the current situation in perspective.

VIII. PROPOSED FOREST DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

A) Proponent must provide maps, tables and discussion outlining the forecasted progression and options, where applicable, of general operating areas and company road development for the planning period and mitigation employed, where necessary, to reduce impacts on other resources. Discussion should also include but not be limited to: harvesting methods, forest renewal strategies, application of various operating guidelines and forest ecosystem maintenance. The proposed activities should be discussed in the context of the overall forest management and protection strategies as well as the previously stated goals and objectives for the planning period. The following detail is also required:

i) A suitably scaled map showing:
- general operating areas where activities are anticipated.
- forecast of the development of operating areas and road construction.
- existing roads.
- proposed roads (see below).
- major river crossings (site specific).

ii) For all weather roads and main winter access roads to operating areas a development corridor should be provided along with:

- route selection rationale.
- road construction practices (with respect to environmental protection).
-discussion of options considered.

B) Discussion of forest renewal and related stand management which may be carried out over the planning period. The long term silvicultural strategies should be discussed in the context of the overall forest management and protection strategy and principles of sustainable development as well as the goals and objectives outlined for the planning period. Detailed discussion should encompass:

i) Harvesting methods and design
- clear-cut, strip-cut, mechanical systems, etc.

ii) Renewal methods
- site preparation, scarification, planting, seeding.
- natural or artificial regeneration.
- covertype maintenance.

iii) Stand tending and forest health
- criteria, objectives, priorities.
- mechanical/chemical treatments.
- access requirements.

IX. MONITORING AND RESEARCH

In consideration of the stated goals and objectives for the ten year planning period and forest management strategies in general the following information is to be provided.

A) Tree improvement program objectives and operational strategies.

B) Forest insect and disease research and monitoring programs.

C) Fire management program objectives, strategies and suppression needs. Reference fire management plans.

D) Site improvement activities such as drainage and run-off control, supplemental reforestation, reclamation, erosion control.

E) Monitoring programs

i) Regeneration and plantation surveys, free-to-grow surveys.
ii) Water quality, erosion, site quality.
iii) Forest growth (permanent multi-year sampling programs).
iv) Important/indicator aquatic or terrestrial flora or fauna surveys.

F) Forest ecosystem classification (FEC) and applications .

G) Long term growth and yield studies and sampling programs.

H) Compliance monitoring

i) Mechanisms to ensure the plan is followed within acceptable limits.
ii) Mechanisms to ensure that provincial and federal legislation, policy & procedure, guidelines, etc. are complied with in respect to a long term forest management plan.

X. OTHER

A) Stakeholder organizations and public input process with respect to the long term forest management plan.

B) Co-management Agreements.

C) Claims and Agreements that may influence or be influenced by a long term forest management plan.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Cut-block A singularly unique harvest area, identified by distinct boundaries and readily identifiable on forest cover type maps.

Cut-block design The configuration or lay-out of proposed cut-blocks on a forest cover type map. The limit of harvesting within stands are clearly indicated by the cut-block boundaries.

Cutting A group of cutblocks or a defined area being progressively harvested over one or more years.

Key or critical Specifically identified areas that are highly vulnerable to resource extraction activities. Examples include but are not restricted to calving grounds, nesting sites of rare and endangered birds, deer yarding areas, remnant habitat of rare and endangered plant or animal species, areas of archeological or cultural significance, steep erodible slopes and soils susceptible to compaction.

Operating area A contiguous area upon which forest development activities are planned. Impacts of proposed harvesting activities on various resource concerns (i.e. ecological diversity, habitat management, access, water management) are assessed based on the entire operating area.

Proponent Includes a) Forest Management License Holders and b) the Forestry Branch (on behalf of quota holders, community sales, special allocations, auctions and commercial permits).

Stake-holders Individuals or groups who may be either directly or indirectly affected by proposed operations, and therefore have a vested interest in providing input to assist the proponent in the development of a forest management plan.